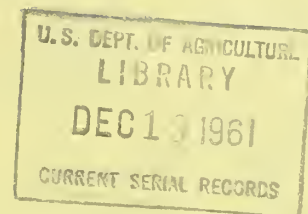


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FOOD PREVIEW



A summary of the food outlook especially designed to give maximum advance information to food editors to help them plan food features.

A 389.8
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Reserve

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Agricultural Marketing Service

November 24, 1961
F P - 54

MEAT.....Supplies per capita will be up seasonally in the next few months and a little higher than last year, resulting primarily from the rise in pork output. Beef production will be only slightly larger than a year ago; veal production about equal to last year; but lamb production will be down sharply.

Beef.....Cattle numbers and slaughter are likely to increase for the next year or two, but at approximately the same rate as population and per capita income. Commercial slaughter in 1962 is expected to rise to about 26.5 million head--4 percent over this year.

Pork.....Per capita supplies for 1961 will be about 2.3 pounds below the 65.3 pounds consumed in 1960. The larger 1961 fall pig crop will provide for a slightly larger hog slaughter in the late winter and early spring months of 1962.

Lamb.....Smaller supplies--both in total and per person--are likely in 1962. Sheep and lamb numbers will be reduced to near 32 million head by January 1, and a winter price rise above that of last year is in prospect for lambs.

POULTRY:

Broiler----For the year, production will be up about 12 percent from 1960.

Broilers Broilers will continue to be abundant for the rest of 1961, although slaughter may be below the 1960 level by year-end. For 1962, supplies are likely to be close to 1961.

Turkeys.....Production for 1961 is up 26 percent from a year ago with a crop of 107 million birds raised. Supplies to consumers will be more than ample with prices the lowest in recent history. Supplies for the first half of 1962 are expected to remain at levels close to this year.

Eggs.....Monthly supplies will be above 1960 for the remainder of 1961. Per capita consumption for the year is estimated at 323 eggs, down from the 334 in 1960. Prospects for 1962 indicate production to be slightly higher and prices slightly lower than 1961.

DAIRY.....Supplies of dairy products will be abundant again in 1962, exceeding domestic requirements by a wider margin than in any year since 1954. Milk production in 1962 is expected to expand over this year's prospective 125 billion pounds.

VEGETABLES:

Fresh.....Fresh market supplies for this fall are moderately smaller than last fall but close to the 1950-59 average. Production of celery, carrots, cabbage, cauliflower, cucumbers and green peas is below a year ago with supplies of Brussels sprouts, broccoli and peppers also smaller than 1960. Partially offsetting is larger output of snap beans with remaining supplies of sweet corn and eggplant significantly larger than a year ago.

Processed...Estimates in early October show a tenth more tonnage for processing this year than last and a fifth more than the 1950-59 average. Supplies of canned vegetables into mid-1962 are expected to be ample to heavy, with materially more frozen vegetables also in prospect. November 1 warehouse stocks of frozen vegetables was at 1.3 billion pounds, the largest for any month on record.

Potatoes...Supplies for fall and winter markets are significantly larger than last year. Fall production is estimated at 198,364,000 hundredweight, 13 percent above 1960 and 27 percent over the 1950-59 average. Total production for 1961 amounts to 283,971,000 hundredweight, up 10 percent from the 1960 harvest. Sweetpotato production, at 15,198,000 hundredweight is 3 percent less than 1960 and 20 percent below the 10-year average.

FRUITS:

Oranges.....Production of early, mid-season, and Navel oranges in 1961-62 will be about 64.3 million boxes, 2 percent over 1960-61 and about equal to the 1950-59 average, basis the November Crop Report.

Grapefruit..Excluding the California summer crop, production in 1961-62 is estimated at 45.2 million boxes as of November 1. This is 8 percent larger than the ~~47~~ 44.9 million boxes in 1960-61 and 9 percent above the 1950-59 average.

Apples.....November ~~A~~ commercial crop estimate was for 126.8 million bushels, 17 percent above the 1960 crop and 13 percent over the 1950-59 average.

Pears.....Disease and unfavorable weather in the Pacific Coast States forced the 1961 crop 8 percent below the 1950-59 average. This year's estimated 26.8 million bushels was 5 percent over 1960.

Grapes.....1961 crop was estimated as of November 1 at 3,134,330 tons, 5 percent over 1960 and 7 percent above the 1950-59 average. Gain over last year is mainly in California, where the crop of 1,920,000 tons of raisin varieties is 18 percent above 1960.

Frozen.....Frozen fruit supplies started their downward cycle with a reduction of 17 million pounds during October, bringing supplies to 582 million pounds on October 31, 12 percent over last year and also the ten-year average.

NUTS.....Total production of the 4 major edible tree nuts--almonds, filberts, pecans and walnuts--in 1961 is expected to set a new record of 269,160 tons, 18 percent over 1960 and 34 percent larger than the 1950-59 average.

The Plentiful Foods Program

The Agricultural Marketing Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, through its Plentiful Foods Program, is cooperating in these food campaigns:

EGG NOG MONTH December 1 - 31

"GIVE MEAT FOR CHRISTMAS" December 1 - 25

WHEAT BREAD MONTH January 1 - 31

ALL DAIRY PRODUCTS MONTH January 1 - February 28

HOT CHOCOLATE MILK TIME. January 1 - February 28

NATIONAL KRAUT AND FRANK WEEK January 25 - February 4